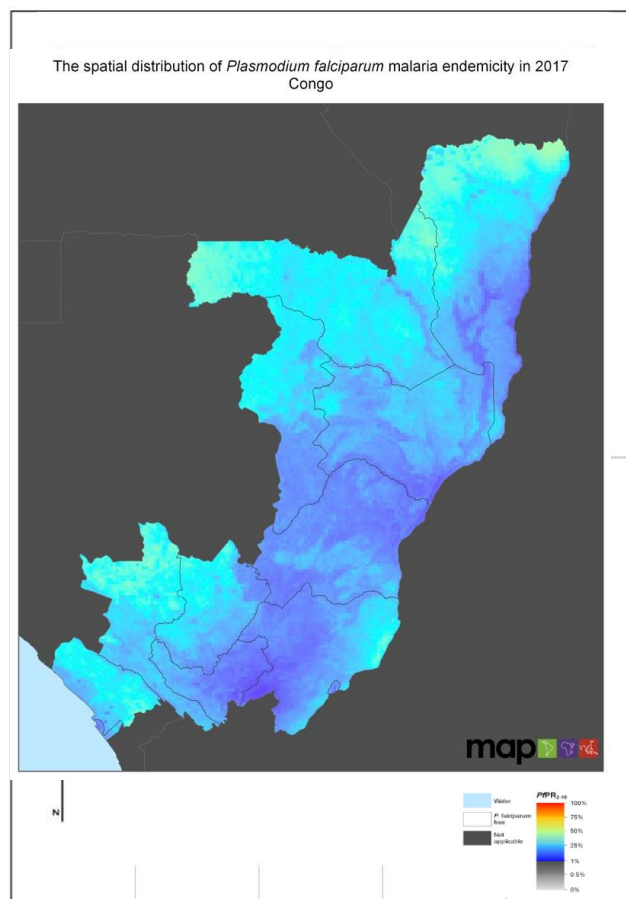


Scorecard for Accountability and Action



The entire population of the Republic of the Congo is at high risk of malaria and transmission is intense all year round. The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2018 was 324,615 with 131 deaths.

Metrics

Commodities Financed and Financial Control		
LLIN financing 2020 projection (% of need)	49	
Public sector RDT financing 2020 projection (% of need)	37	
Public sector ACT financing 2020 projection (% of need)	82	
World Bank rating on public sector management and institutions 2018 (CPIA Cluster D)	2.5	
Insecticide Resistance Monitoring, Implementation and Impact		
Insecticide classes with mosquito resistance in representative sentinel sites confirmed since 2010	3	
Insecticide resistance monitored since 2015 and data reported to WHO		
National Insecticide Resistance Monitoring and Management Plan		
Country Reporting Launch of Zero Malaria Starts with Me Campaign		
Scale of Implementation of iCCM (2017)		
Operational LLIN/IRS coverage (% of at risk population)	100	
On track to reduce case incidence by ≥40% by 2020 (vs 2015)		
On track to reduce case mortality by ≥40% by 2020 (vs 2015)		
Tracer Indicators for Maternal and Child Health and NTDs		
Mass Treatment Coverage for Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD index, %)(2018)	44	
Estimated % of Total Population living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2018)	35	
Estimated % of children (0–14 years old) living with HIV who have access to antiretroviral therapy (2018)	25	
% deliveries assisted by skilled birth attendant	91	
Postnatal care (within 48 hrs)	80	
Exclusive breastfeeding (% children < 6 months)	33	
Vitamin A Coverage 2018 (2 doses)	8	
DPT3 coverage 2018 (vaccination among 0-11 month olds)	75	

Key

	Target achieved or on track
	Progress but more effort required
	Not on track
	No data
	Not applicable

Malaria

Sustaining Essential Health Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic is putting an incredible strain on health systems across Africa. Health systems are required to maintain routine health services for other illnesses even as they handle the additional burden. In order to prevent widespread morbidity and mortality, it is of vital importance that we work to sustain the delivery of essential life-saving interventions during this difficult time including for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Adolescent and Child health including malaria.

WHO underlines the critical importance of sustaining efforts to prevent, detect and treat malaria during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is of vital importance to ensure the continuity of malaria prevention and treatment services including distribution of insecticide-treated nets and indoor residual spraying, as well as chemoprevention for pregnant women and young children (intermittent preventive treatment in pregnancy and seasonal malaria chemoprevention). Any intervention must consider the importance of both lowering malaria-related mortality and ensuring the safety of communities and health workers given the ease of transmission of COVID-19.

Congo is encouraged to sustain the delivery of essential health services including malaria case management, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Without this, there will be an increase in malaria cases and deaths. Under the worst-case scenario, in which there is a 75% reduction in access to effective antimalarial medicines, WHO estimate that there could be a 10.3% increase in malaria cases, and a 61.4% increase in malaria deaths in Congo. This scenario would represent a complete reversal in the substantial progress in malaria mortality reductions seen over the last 2 decades.

Progress

Congo has secured sufficient resources to cover the required needs for most of the ACTs required in 2020. Congo has procured sufficient LLINs to achieve 100% operational coverage of the targeted at risk population in the forthcoming campaign. The country has scaled up iCCM coverage. The majority of patients are able to access ACTs and RDTs through the health insurance scheme. The country has recently reported the results of insecticide resistance monitoring to WHO. Congo has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms for malaria with the development of a Malaria Scorecard.

Impact

The annual reported number of malaria cases in 2018 was 324,615 with 131 deaths.

Key Challenges

- Low coverage of essential interventions due to lack of external and domestic resources.
- Sustaining the delivery of essential life-saving interventions during the COVID-19 pandemic including for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Adolescent and Child health including malaria.

- Previous Key Recommended Actions

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
Impact	Investigate and address the reasons for the increase in estimated malaria incidence between 2015 and 2018	Q4 2020		Congo reports the observed malaria upsurge was in part linked to an interruption in Global Fund resources in 2013 which prevented the country from procuring and distributing LLINs, leading to an increase in cases. The country has also increased case detection after implementing a policy of free diagnosis and treatment for children under 5, leading to more cases being reported. To address the upsurge the country has mobilized sufficient resources to procure and distribute 3 million LLINs, including with resources from the GF. The increase in the GF allocation is expected to further accelerate the response to the increase in cases
Address funding	Ensure the GF malaria funding application is submitted by Q2 2020 and ensure that resources are allocated to malaria control at a level that is sufficient to sustain the gains made in recent years	Q2 2020		The country submitted its GF application in Q1

Congo has responded to the recommended actions addressing financing of anti-malarial commodities and continues to track progress as this action is implemented. The country is working on a multisectoral investment plan.

New Key Recommended Action

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe
Impact	Ensure that malaria services including case management and vector control are sustained and implemented whilst using COVID-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic	Q4 2020

RMNCAH and NTDs

Progress

Congo has made good progress in tracer RMNCAH interventions including skilled birth attendants and vitamin A. The country has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of a Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Scorecard.

Progress in addressing Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) in Congo is measured using a composite index calculated from preventive chemotherapy coverage achieved for lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis and soil transmitted helminths. Preventive chemotherapy coverage data for Congo were submitted to WHO but the index value is not yet calculated as data validation is under process.

The country has enhanced the tracking and accountability mechanisms with the development of the NTD scorecard.

Previous Key Recommended Actions

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe	Progress	Comments - key activities/accomplishments since last quarterly report
RMNCAH ¹ : Optimise quality of care	Investigate and address the reasons for the low coverage of vitamin A	Q2 2020		The country reports that the low vitamin A coverage is linked to limited access children in hard to reach areas, insufficient training and supervision of actors at decentralized level, and lack of awareness of parents on the importance of Vitamin A supplementation, which limits the demand. Congo is working to identify the underlying causes of the low coverage and adapt the strategies accordingly, including exploring integration of vitamin A distribution into the Reaching Every District (RED) strategy

Congo has responded positively to the RMNCAH recommended action addressing low coverage of ARTs, and coverage has recently increased, and continues to track progress as these actions are implemented.

New Key Recommended Action

Objective	Action Item	Suggested completion timeframe
RMNCAH ¹ : Impact	Ensure that essential RMNCAH services are sustained and implemented whilst using COVID-19 sensitive guidelines during the pandemic	Q4 2020

Key

	Action achieved
	Some progress
	No progress
	Deliverable not yet due

¹ RMNCAH metrics, recommended actions and response tracked through WHO